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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: ARAOKA=2

In re Application of:

Toshinobu ARAOKA

Appln. No.: 09/991,871

Filed: November 26, 2001

For: GRAVEL-OR-THE-LIKE
REMOVING DEVICE

) Art Unit: 3653

) Examiner:

) Confirmation No. 3261

) Washington, D.C.

) March 21, 2002

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

GROUP 3600

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

3. Document(s) AA is (are) not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant(s) states that an English-language abstract is enclosed.

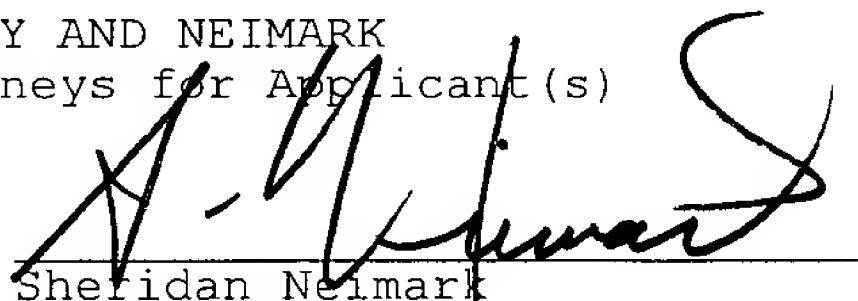
4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

5. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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